

DE 38 43 673 A1

(54) Electrical power supply system for motor vehicles

In order to supply the on-board network, the electrical power supply system has an electric generator (6) which can be driven by an internal combustion engine (7). The generator (6) is driven by an internal combustion engine (7) independent of the traction engine of the motor vehicle and always supplies sufficient energy to the on-board network when the vehicle battery no longer has sufficient power because of a large number of electrical loads. The generator (6) and the independent internal combustion engine (7) are arranged at the rear end of the motor vehicle and specifically in the spare wheel recess (3). This results in a favourable axle load distribution since the weight of the generator is taken away from the front axle and the rear axle is substantially loaded with the weight of the generator (6) and also with the weight of a small independent internal combustion engine (7).